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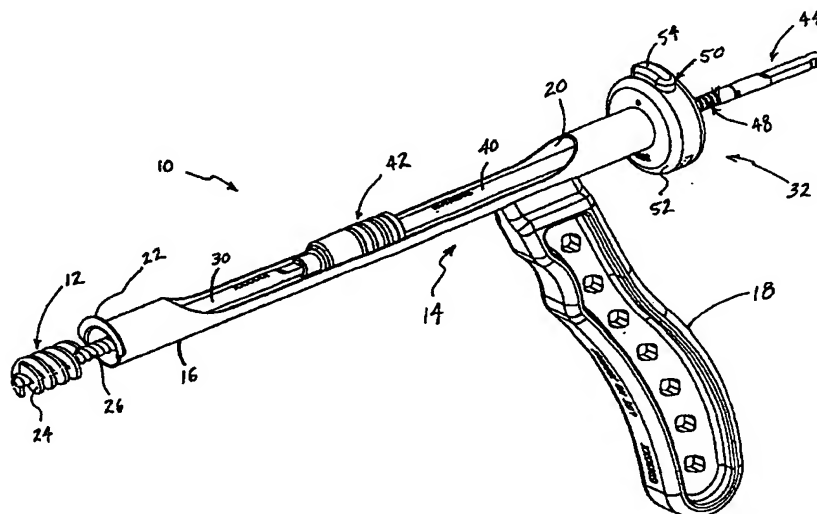
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR REMOVING BODY TISSUE



(57) Abstract: Devices and methods for removing body tissue involving the use of a brush member (12) having a plurality of bristle members defining a capacity for carrying body tissue. The brush member (12) is capable of being manipulated within said body to thereby receive body tissue within said brush member (12) such that said body tissue may be carried and thereafter removed from said body. Also provided are protective devices (90) dimensioned to be positioned near an entrance into the target site, the protective devices (90) for establishing a barrier between the brush member (12) and at least a portion of the body tissue adjacent to the entrance. The protective devices (16) may comprise one of a cannula assembly (14) and a retractor assembly.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/28926

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 17/00

US CL : 606/79

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : Please See Continuation Sheet

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X ---	US 6,099,309 A (CARDARELLI) 08 August 2000 (08.08.2000), see entire document.	1,2,6-10,14,15,17-20,36-39
Y		16
X,P ---	US 6,423,078 B1 (BAYS et al.) 23 July 2002 (23.07.2002), see entire document.	1,2,6,7,9,13,17-25,28-31,36-39
Y,P		8,10,14-16
X,P ---	US 2002/0016583 A1 (CRAGG) 07 February 2002 (07.02.2002), see paragraph 140.	1,2,6,7,9,17-19,40,41,44-46,57
Y,P		8,10,14-16
X ---	US 5,355,547 A (FITJER) 18 October 1994 (18.10.1994), see entire document.	1,2,4-8,17-19
Y		14-16



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 4,108,162 A (CHIKASHIGE et al.) 22 August 1978 (22.08.1978) see entire document.	1-7,9,13,17-19 ----- 8,10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US02/28926

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 1:

606/79,84,85,96,131,159,167,170,172,180
435/125,142

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST
brush, bristle, cannula, guard, shield